

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 9, 2006

Dear Majority Leader Frist:

We are writing to ask that when the Senate returns for its lame duck session beginning November 13, you immediately schedule time for the consideration of, and a vote on, an agriculture disaster package.

There is currently an agriculture disaster provision in the FY07 Agriculture Appropriations bill awaiting action by the Senate. Alternatively, you could bring up a stand-alone agriculture disaster bill for consideration.



As you know, earlier this year the Senate approved an agriculture disaster package as part of the emergency supplemental appropriations bill. That assistance, however, was stripped out in the conference committee.

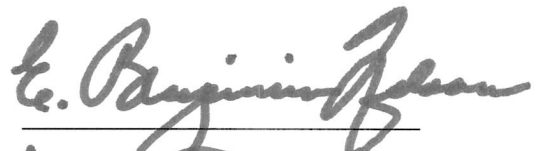

There is an urgent need to provide disaster aid for those family farmers across our country who have struggled with weather-related natural disasters this year. Producers in many parts of the country experienced serious crop and quality losses due to wildfires and flooding, and, especially, a drought that consumed a substantial part of our country.

That brutal drought left hundreds of thousands of crop acres withered and dead, and forced ranchers to sell off herds due to lack of available feed. These family farmers and ranchers have sustained very real losses and deserve the help of the federal government just as we have already provided to those in the Gulf region.

Again, we ask for your commitment to bring up an emergency agriculture disaster assistance package for debate and a vote immediately upon our return. Just as the assistance to agricultural producers in the Gulf region was provided without budget offsets, the assistance to farmers and ranchers in the rest of the country should not come at the expense of other agricultural programs.

Sincerely,

Jim Jeffords
Samuel R. Brown

Ex-Rep Johnson

Robert A. Taft Jr.

Hent

Blanche R. Lincoln

Marcel Boyer

Ken Salazar

Noam Coleman

Tom Harkin